

who will superintend its erection. The estimated cost is upwards of £5000. In consequence of certain disputes between the vicar of Leigh and some of the parishioners respecting their right of burial, it is proposed to provide a suburban cemetery. The *Liverpool Mail* says:—"This step, we presume, will not be objected to by the vicar himself, as the pecuniary sacrifices made by him in his refusal of so many burials, proves that he is not actuated by the love of money, and we can see no other remedy for the people of Leigh than that to which we now draw their attention." At the monthly meeting of the Liverpool town council, held last week, Mr. Earle moved, pursuant to notice, "That a special committee be appointed to take into consideration a general and comprehensive plan for the improvement of the municipal borough." The motion was carried unanimously, and a committee, consisting of Sir Thomas Branker, Mr. Nicol, Mr. Horsfall, Mr. G. H. Lawrence, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Tinnis, Mr. Lacey, Mr. Earle, Mr. Aikin, and Mr. Turner, was appointed for the purpose of carrying it out. The great west window of Leominster parish church is about to be restored. This window has 41 feet clear glass in height, and about 23 feet in width. The gentleman selected to superintend its restoration is Mr. T. Nicholson, architect, of Hereford. The same architect is also superintending a church about to be built in Radnorshire, in the Norman style of architecture, and for which tenders have been sent in, showing a most preposterous difference, viz., as follows:—

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|-------------------|------|
| Price of the work | £834 |
| For the same work | 695 |
| For the same work | 460 |
| For the same work | 436 |

—The floor of the Scotch Church, Birmingham, gave way during divine service last Sunday week. Sufficient warning was given to enable the congregation, amounting to between two and three hundred persons, to escape without any one being injured. On examination, it was found that the floor had not gone down very far, although the joists had given way from rotteness, and the foundation altogether was so bad, that the congregation might have descended many feet. The chapel was built only ten years ago, and no small surprise is expressed that such an occurrence should have taken place. The *Town Herald* says, that in consequence of the difficulty experienced in the procuring a site for the new college at Galway, and Lord Clancarty having offered to give one free in Ballinasloe, the Government have determined on erecting it in the latter town. A committee has been appointed at Taunton, consisting of Mr. Edwards Headon, Mr. Cottle, Mr. Frenchard, Mr. Eales White, Mr. Gillett, Mr. Penny, and Mr. Jeblott, to inquire into the defective drainage of the town, and to advise on the best means to rectify the same. A numerous syndicate has been appointed at Cambridge to consider whether, with a view of carrying into effect the design of a new botanic garden, it be expedient to impose a tax upon members of the university; and if so, in what manner such a tax may most conveniently be imposed, and to report in the senate before the division of next Easter Term. At a meeting of the Yarmouth Haven and Pier Commissioners, held last week, a number of contracts were read for works decided to be carried out at the Pier Head, amounting to about £6,000. The following were accepted:—Preston and Son, for 6r timber, 4l. 15s. 1d. per load; H. D. Palmer, Quebec old timber, 6l. 17s. 6d. per load; Preston and Son, Quebec elm, pines, 4l. 10s. 7d. per ditto; ditto Pillar and Andrews, cast-iron, at 5s. 6d. per cwt.; Hempleman and Huke, wrought iron, 6s. 3d. per cwt. At the same meeting it was stated, that the Norfolk Railway Company had been stopped in the building of their bridge at Reedham by the Admiralty.

EMMANUEL CHURCH, WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—The foundation-stone of this church, intended to accommodate 350 persons was laid last week by Archbishop Law. The site was given by R. Popley, Esq., and is near the railway station at the entrance of the town. The architects are Messrs. Manners and Gill, of Bath.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

MARCH 6.—The Marquis of Northampton, president, in the chair. The meeting, which was held at 25, Great George-street, was attended by upwards of seventy members of the institute. Among the presents announced were:—from Mr. John Buckler, F.S.A., a collection of engravings from his drawings of cathedral, and other churches; also several etchings by himself.

It was stated from the chair, that, as the committee of the institute were engaged in preparing a memoir on the ancient roads, camps, and other remains of British and Roman Yorkshire, to be read at the annual meeting at York, any information on this subject would be of great assistance; and it was requested that all such communications might be sent to Mr. Newton, of the British Museum.

A letter was read from the Rev. R. R. Parry Mealy, giving an account of the further excavations at Segontium (Caernarvon). Extensive traces of buildings had been found. A tile had been discovered, distinctly marked with the print of a Roman soldier's nailed shoe or caliga. The discovery of a Roman pavement in the castle, at Lincoln, was announced by Mr. Willson.

Two of the curious foundation-tiles found in the Roman villa at Wheatley, Oxfordshire, described in the last number of the *Archæological Journal*, were exhibited by Mr. Parker.

The Marquis of Northampton exhibited several very beautiful examples of Greek art. A specimen of glass, of the same manufacture as the Portland Vase, ornamented with white figures, relieved on a blue ground, and formed like a cameo by cutting away the upper surface.

Mr. Figg, of Lewes, communicated, through Mr. Hlaauw, local secretary, a drawing of the fragment of a monumental effigy of a knight, recently found within the ground of Lewes Priory. It is an interesting specimen of the monumental sculpture of the 13th century, greatly resembling that of Robert de Ros, in the Temple Church. The mail had evidently been pill, the surcoat, belt, and remainder of the dress all painted. From the armorial bearings, it was conjectured by Mr. Hlaauw, that the effigy represented one of the great family of De Braose.

Mr. Jewitt exhibited tracings of some paintings recently discovered on the walls of Beckley Church, in Oxfordshire. Among the subjects were:—a representation of the Last Judgment, St. Michael weighing the good and evil in the scales, and figures of St. Peter and Paul; a memoir on the character and present condition of these paintings was communicated by Mr. Jewitt.

The Rev. H. S. Anders, by permission of the churchwardens of St. Martin's-in-the-fields, exhibited two paintings of the early Flemish school, containing, in compartments, scenes from martyrologies, and curious as specimens of the costume and design of the beginning of the 16th century. Mr. Anders stated, that these paintings had been given to the vestry-room of St. Martin's Church about 150 years ago. Mr. Furrer was of opinion, that they were undoubtedly original works, and, possibly, by Clausen, specimens of whose works are preserved at Froges.

A very interesting assemblage of objects of the Renaissance period of art were laid before the meeting, among which may be mentioned, three monumental effigies of the time of James I., found in the precincts of the Abbey Church at Reading, by Mr. Billing.

Mr. W. Hiltm Longstaffe, of Darlington, communicated a paper on the ruined church of Sockburn, county of Durham. It was announced from the chair, that the meetings for exhibition would be held once in each month, and that the next meeting would be on the 3rd of April.

COMPETITION.—IPSWICH RAILWAY STATION.—We understand that nineteen designs were submitted to the directors of the Eastern Union and Ipswich and Bury St. Edmund's Railways, in consequence of the premium offered for the two best plans. The first premium was awarded to Mr. Sancton Wood, the second to Mr. Henniker, of Covent-garden, London.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.—Various additions are about to be made to this building.

SUBMARINE RAILWAYS.

SIR.—The perusal of Mr. De la Haye's paper in THE BUILDER of the 20th ult., on the subject of railways through the sea, has afforded me much pleasure, and raised in my mind rather sanguine expectations, that a work so gigantic in its nature, and so pregnant with the promise of moral good to all Europe and to the world, may yet be accomplished, and that at no very distant period. Somewhat about four years ago, I sent a letter on the same subject to the editor of the *Railway Times*, which he kindly inserted in his journal. I threw out the subject as a feeler, but am not aware that it was at all responded to in any public way, though I have frequently heard, in conversation, the subject adverted to as a specimen of one of those visionary schemes, that now and then spring up in the minds of air-brained theorists. I feel assured, that an iron tunnel from Dover to Calais might be laid down at a vastly less comparative cost than the Thames-tunnel; for instead of so many brick-arches one over the other, the whole might be speedily and less expensively constructed, by dove-tailing segments of the arch one after the other, using the shield, as in the Thames-tunnel, where the chalk would have to be bored, and the diving-bell where the operation is carried on merely at the bottom of the sea. With an iron tunnel thus constructed, there could be no leakage whatever, and after completed, the cost for maintenance of way &c., would be incaleculably less than on the common railway.

I cannot help thinking, that the entire cost of the work would fall greatly short of the estimate Mr. De la Haye has given; but suppose it did not, let the English and the French Government patronise the work by a liberal pecuniary grant on both sides; then let the South Eastern, and Calais and Paris Railway Companies, take each so many shares as the certain prospective increase of traffic to be thereby brought upon their lines will justify, afterwards throw it open to the public, and in a very short period the greatest work in the world will be begun. For my own part I have not the least doubt but that the undertaking will handsomely pay.

Imagine it completed! there is scarcely a project in the devised by the ingenuity of man that would tend more to the maintenance of the permanent peace of Europe, and ultimately of the world. I am, Sir, &c.,

Tavistock, Devon. E. PARKER.

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH, IPSWICH.

THE propriety of restoring the interior of this fine chancel in the condition in which it was previous to the ravages to which it, in common with all sacred edifices, was subjected in at the hands of the puritan, William Dawkins, and the parliamentary visitors, in 1648, was mooted a few months since, when Mr. Fonnereau, the lay improprator, offered to subscribe the sum of 200l. if the parishioners of St. Margaret's would guarantee the remaining portion of the sum requisite to carry out the work of restoration. The subject was taken up, and promises of contributions, amounting to upwards of 300l., exclusive of Mr. Fonnereau's offer, were soon obtained. The proposed alterations were shortly afterwards commenced under the superintendence of Mr. Ringham, and they have now nearly arrived at completion. The whole of the unsightly pews have been removed from the nave and aisles, and open low-backed seats on a raised floor, substituted in their stead. The pulpit is adjoining the southern buttress of the chancel. One of the windows in the southern aisle has been restored, in coloured glass, in its original style and size, and it is intended to make a similar alteration with all the others, just as the state of the funds will permit of it. The walls, pillars, and painted oak ceiling, have also been cleaned and repaired. The accumulation of earth in the churchyard, the growth of centuries, has been lowered between two and three feet, and the graves have been all redressed. These comprise the principal restorations at present contemplated, but we are given to understand that, in the autumn, Mr. Fonnereau will, at his own cost, replace the large eastern window over the chancel, with one of stained glass, when the chancel itself will undergo repair.